

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014**

EXECUTIVE SESSION per 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(D) Labor Negotiations

6:15 Motion to go into executive session by Councilor Barron, second by Councilor Berry.

EXECUTIVE SESSION per MRSA, Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405 (6) (A) Personnel

6:30 Motion to go into Executive Session by Councilor Heath, second by Councilor Phil Hart. Discussion will continue.

ROLL CALL All Councilors introduced themselves

PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS (Public comment for anything not on agenda)

Laurie Saunders, Libby Hill Rd, approached the Councilor about establishing a senior center. Ms Saunders attended the comprehensive plan meetings and noticed that transportation for seniors is very low on the list. There is no place for seniors to go, be social and play games. She is willing to help and volunteer. Mayor Harnett welcomed Ms. Saunders and thanked her for bringing this up. He noted that this is an issue that has come up during the Heart & Soul process. Councilor Pat Hart thanked Ms. Saunders and offered to work with her on ways to get started. Phil Barter, Brunswick Ave, agrees that transportation is an issue. Maybe the merchants could offer discounts similar to IGA. He and his wife would also be interested in being on the committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consideration of Minutes 12/18, 1/8

Motion to approve by Councilor Johnston and second by Councilor Heath. With the amendment in the 12/18 minutes. Unanimous Vote as amended

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration of Acting as Fiscal Sponsor for Gardiner Growth Initiative

City Manager Morelli stated that the GMS is getting ready to announce a forgivable loan program and have asked the City administer the funding for them. The City would like to enter into a management agreement. Councilor Johnston made a motion to authorize the City to enter into an agreement with the GMS to administer the program. Second by Councilor Patricia Hart. Councilor Heath clarified that we would just be issuing the checks. Unanimous Vote

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Appointment of Interim Fire Chief

City Manager Morelli asked Council to appoint Dan Guilmond as the interim fire chief effective 3/28. Councilor Johnston made a motion to appoint, second by Councilor Williams. Unanimous Vote.

Consideration of Committee Appointments

Motion to appoint the nominees: Mr. Gosline for New Mills Dan, Veronique Vendette for Recycling, and Mr. Files for Parks & Recreation

Motion to approve by Pat Hart, second by Councilor Berry. Unanimous Vote

Consideration of Approving Police Association Contract

Zero wage increase this year, wage reopener in year 2 and 3. Clarification of when officers take time off, the detail overtime rate of pay is 35 per hour or their regular OT rate. Motion to approve by Councilor Barron, to approve the contract for 7/1/14 – 7/1/17. Second by Councilor Berry. Mayor Harnett thanked the association for their understanding of this particular year for negotiations. Unanimous Vote

Discussion and Consideration of Use of Weed Killers on City Sidewalks (Vegetation Control)

Tony LaPlante introduced Jason Thompson, who works with products for vegetation control. We have a serious sidewalk weed problem. Other towns have a sign-out clause for properties that do not want the product used in front of their house. Councilor Johnston will not support using herbicides. Mayor Harnett received many comments about the use of herbicides and shares concerns about using them. Vinegar is more costly because of multiple applications than using a commercial product. Product would not be applied with any chance of rain to avoid run off, they minimize the drift by using a machine close to the curb. Prior to use, they check the Board of Pesticides for residents that are on it, they make sure to advertise with the KJ. There are options for No Spray zones by using local registry. Do not spray near sewer drain. Councilor Heath asked if we have ever done this in Gardiner? No knowledge. City of Augusta, Lewiston, Auburn have all used this product. Some towns do it right before a special event. The product takes 7 – 10 days to work. Councilor Pat Hart would like to hear more options to reclaim the sidewalks. Maybe try in certain areas. Councilor Johnston is in favor of taking care of the our sidewalks but very concerned about using products. Mayor Harnett shares the concerns. Charity Williams from the audience spoke saying that the ecosystem will suffer if we use products on the sidewalks—runoff to the stream, fish, blue herrings. Phil Barter said he would be on a no spray zone but would like to hear an estimate of costs. Tony said \$4000 is a very rough estimate. The research shows that once it is dried, it is no longer an active ingredient. Councilor Johnston disagrees. The sheet says the spec sheet says it is a salt. Councilor Pat Hart would like to hear more options. Councilor Barron would like to explore options as well. Councilor Heath works for DEP and could look into herbicides more. Doug Clark, WWTP, said the formula does not appear to have any bad effects on treatment of water. Council asked for Tony to come back with all options, cost, approach, notice, areas to addressed. Council needs to be careful on policy and how keep our sidewalks walkable without telling Tony how to do his job.

Consideration of Accepting an Ice Harvester Sculpture as a Gift

City Manager Morelli said that a community creative fund was established and Nicholas Geneovese, a resident made an ice sculpture that he would like to have on display. The Library agreed to display it. Motion to accept the ice sculpture by Councilor Heath, second by Councilor Pat Hart. Unanimous Vote, Councilor Johnston abstained

Consideration of Sewer Abatement Requests

Doug Clark spoke to all the requesters. Councilor Johnston moved List C to List B, and 23 Warren and Plummer at 100% and 343 Water St and 524 Water St properties at 50%. Second by Councilor Barron. Unanimous Vote

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Scott asked if Council was ok with the Comp Plan process. Councilor Pat Hart, spoke in favor of the process. Adaptive reuse is a city-wide issue that needs to be addressed sooner than later. If we don't handle it now, it will be 5-6 months. Councilor Berry asked if there is a good definition of the bigger buildings that might qualify for adaptive reuse. Nate Rudy said he is working on language for reuse of larger buildings.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Councilor Pat Hart said there is a comp plan meeting tomorrow and thanked everyone for coming to the workshop. Chapters 5 and 6 are very important to comment on. Rotary is partnering with Cumberland Farms for a ribbon cutting event and fundraising event for Gazebo. Councilor Heath and Councilor Johnston thanked Councilor Pat Hart for work on the Comp Plan. Councilor Williams spoke about a new business "Sunrise Foods" that moved from Farmingdale to Gardiner. Councilor Berry asked about Highland Ave. Tony spoke about the Engineering bid process and that we received 6 responses. The timeline is very aggressive. To be done by the end of November. Renee Adams, Pope St, asked about fixing the pot holes. PW has tries to fill them and are aware of the spot in front Dennis' Pizza

Mayor Harnett would like everyone to take a look at the Gazebo. It looks really good! This Saturday there is a cash mob to support Funky Fashions and Dennis Pizza. Literary Day is coming too and some local Maine Authors. April 1 is National Service Day and would like the City to do a resolution.

ADJOURN 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted by Deirdre Berglund